

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 97
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0912

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, KN, KS, CT
SUBJECT: EMPEROR'S VISIT TO NORTH KOREA

REF: BANGUI 862 AND 679

SUMMARY: EMPEROR BOKASSA'S VISIT TO NORTH KOREA IS NOW SCHEDULED
FOR APRIL 28-MAY 2. CAE HOWEVER APPEARS COMMITTED TO TWO KOREA
POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. EMPEROR BOKASSA WILL VISIT NORTH KOREA APRIL 28-MAY 2. AN
ADVANCE PARTY OF 29, INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE
MINISTER OF PLANNING, THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER, THE EMPEROR'S
ECONOMIC ADVISOR AND COMMERCIAL AND BANKING OFFICIALS, LEFT
APRIL 18. THE EMPEROR AND ANOTHER 40 ADVISERS WILL LEAVE
APRIL 26 FOR PARIS. ACCORDING TO THE THE SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY,
THE NORTH KOREANS ARE SENDING AN AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT THE
EMPEROR AND HIS ENTOURAGE FROM PARIS TO PYONGYANG.

2. THE MAKEUP OF THE DELEGATION WOULD INDICATE WIDE-RANGING
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DISCUSSION AND PROBABLY REFLECTS THE CAE DESIRE TO GET
WHATEVER AID IT CAN. HOWEVER, THE ONLY SPECIFIC REQUEST OF
WHICH WE HAVE HEARD IS THAT FOR NORTH KOREAN AID TO BUILD A
NEW \$3 MILLION PALACE AT THE IMPERIAL COURT OF BERENGO,
50 MILES SOUTH-WEST OF BANGUI. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BOKASSA
MAY ALSO WISH TO SIGN A GENERAL COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT.

3. THE SOUTH KOREANS TELLS US THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ASKED FOR AGREEMENT FOR A CAE AMBASSADOR TO SEOUL. SO FAR, THEIR GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RESPONDED. WE UNDERSTAND FROM ANOTHER SOURCE THAT THERE MIGHT BE PROBLEMS IN FINDING THE MONEY TO ACTUALLY OPEN SUCH AN EMBASSY, EVEN IF AN AMBASSADOR IS NAMED.

4. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED FROM THE SOUTH KOREANS THAT PAUL-SERGE YSSASSI, NAMED LAST WEEK AS COUNSELOR IN THE CAE EMBASSY IN PYONGYANG, IS NOW WORKING IN THE SOUTH RPT SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN BANGUI. HE IS RELATED TO BOKASSA, SO HIS APPOINTMENT TO A DIPLOMATIC POST CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO THE SOUTH KOREANS EVEN IF THE LOCATION OF THE POST WAS.

5. A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL INDICATED TO THE DCM APRIL 20 THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE CHANGE IN THE HISTORICALLY MODERATE CAE POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, INCLUDING THE UPCOMING NON-ALIGNED MEETING. ON KOREA, THE CAE POSITION WOULD BE THAT THERE ARE TWO KGREAS AND THAT THEY SHOULD SEEK A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THEIR DIFFERENCES, HE SAID. THE CAE WOULD CONTINUE TO OPPOSE LINKING OF ZIONISM-RACISM, AND IT WOULD NOT SUPPORT CUBA BECAUSE THAT COUNTRY'S ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA SHOWED THAT IT WAS NOT "NON-ALIGNED" ACCORDING TO HIM.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT EMPEROR BOKASSA MIGHT BE CARRIED AWAY BY HIS WELCOME IN PYONGYANG AND COME OUT STRONGLY IN SUPPORT OF NORTH KOREA, IT APPEARS THAT
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HE DOES NOT WANT TO BREAK HIS TIES TO SOUTH KOREA, WHICH HAVE BEEN PROFITABLE FOR THE CAE.
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